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DR. JOHN M'LOUGHLIN AND HIS GUESTS.*

According to biblical verse three score years and ten are counted as the span of a man's natural life. In the year 1838, seventy years ago, a trading post on the north bank of the Columbia river, about one hundred miles above its mouth, constituted the commercial, the educational, and the social center of the Oregon Country, as well as the seat of its administrative authority. This trading post, or Fort so-called, then comprised a community of, one (Holman) says about seven hundred and another (Wilson) says about five hundred inhabitants. It had its school, its hospital, its regular church services both Protestant and Catholic, and even its library (Travels of Samuel Parker, p. 171), and the conduct of its citizens was more orderly than in most towns of the same size today. There was no community of equal importance on the Pacific Coast, and none of similar size except perhaps three in California; and even the San Francisco settlement, then Yerba Buena, contributed to its commercial activity. Vancouver, of the State of Washington, U. S. A., ranks historically as the first community of any size in the Pacific Northwest. Its founder and builder, and administrator for a period of twenty-two years was Dr. John McLoughlin, the grandest character to be found in the History of the Oregon Country, but whose real worth and work are even yet too little known by the people of the present generation. It would be presumptuous to attempt to sketch his entire career within the limits necessarily assigned to this paper, but we may with interest glean from the journals and letters of some of those who visited Vancouver during that period and present a passing but somewhat familiar view of Dr. McLoughlin and of the times in which he lived there, and a few facts of the early history of this region in which we live.

To the first forty years of the life of Dr. John McLoughlin, before his coming to the Pacific Slope, but brief reference will be made; in fact until the closed archives of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Northwest Company are opened to research a satisfactory statement is not possible. He was born in 1784, either on a small estate or in a small village about one hundred

* A paper read on Oct. 6th, 1908, at Spokane, Wash., before the Washington Library Association, by Mr. T. C. Elliott, of Walla Walla, President of the Association.

miles below Quebec on the South side of the St. Lawrence river ; his father died during his youth and he was brought up, in all probability, in the family of the maternal grandfather, who was a retired officer of the British army, named Malcolm Fraser ; together with an only brother, he was educated for the medical profession, and studied in Canada and Scotland, and perhaps in France ; the brother remained in the Old Country to practice, but he returned to Canada and soon connected himself with the fur trade, at first in professional practice but afterward as a man of affairs rather than a physician ; he became a partner as well as one of the officials of the Northwest Company, that bitter rival of the Hudson's Bay Co. up to the year 1821, when the two companies coalesced ; along with other leading men of the fur trade he necessarily became more or less involved in the armed conflicts that arose between the two rival interests, and was with others in 1818 actually tried before a jury for the alleged murder of certain individuals but was acquitted after a deliberation of forty-five minutes ; he was then and afterward the chief factor at Fort William, on Lake Superior, the most important trading post, or Factory so called, of the Northwest Co. ; he was selected in 1824 as the one man best fitted to be put in charge of the business of the two companies (under one name) west of the Rocky Mountains. By the first route of regular travel across the American continent, as laid out by that intrepid explorer and surveyor David Thompson, he arrived at Fort George (Astoria) in the early fall of 1824, but at once selected the better location at Vancouver and began the erection of the stockade and buildings for the post there.

Forty years of age and in the prime of manhood, schooled in years of active experience and vested with supreme authority within the limit of the large powers granted to the powerful Hudson's Bay Co., physically standing six feet four inches high and of perfect proportions, with a clean shaven, ruddy face and hair already white allowed to grow long and fall over his neck and shoulders, he became the central figure of the Oregon country, feared and respected by the Indians, then numbering perhaps one hundred thousand, loved and respected by the officers and employees of the Hudson's Bay Company, and honored and revered by the pioneers to Oregon as they came to know him .

The first guest at Vancouver we will mention is David Douglas the botanist, sent by the Horticultural Society of London in 1824 to gather the flora of this section of the world. The name of Douglas has become permanently attached to our commerce.

through the famous Douglas Fir, as some of our best lumber is commercially known. David Douglas arrived off the river Columbia in the Hudson's Bay Ship William & Anne, on Feb. 12, 1825, but it was April 7th before she could enter the river; a rather dismal conclusion to a long voyage. Conditions on the Columbia river bar have improved some since then, but are yet subject to newspaper comment. The journals of Douglas, written while he wandered, often alone with an Indian guide, through the coast and interior regions of old Oregon afford very interesting reading. The original Ft. Vancouver was being erected that year but the Chief Factor went down the river to Ft. George as soon as informed that the ship had arrived; and Douglas thus records his welcome: "All my paper and trunks were sent ashore on the 16th and on the 19th I embarked in a small boat with Mr. John McLoughlin, the chief factor, who received me with demonstrations of the most kindly feeling and showed me every civility which it was in his power to bestow." After the summer and fall of botanizing, he was back at Vancouver and thus again writes: "Owing to rainy weather and leaking hut, Mr. McLoughlin kindly invited me to his half finished house, whither I moved all my little articles on the morning of Xmas day, and after morning service the gentlemen of the fort took an airing on horseback." Would the time would permit of telling more of the usual Christmas festivities at Vancouver! In May, 1826, Douglas was in the Spokane country and at Fort Colville, which had been partly built in 1825, and Dr. McLoughlin was there to look over the improvements and give instructions. The journal says, "Friday, the 26th of (May) started at daylight for a trip to the hills south of Kettle Falls. The weather was warm, the thermometer 86 degrees, and sitting down to rest awhile.....I fell asleep and never woke until late in the afternoon, when being twenty miles from home, I would have gladly taken up my quarters there for the night, but that I feared Mr. McLoughlin, who expected me back, would be uneasy. I therefore returned with all speed over a mountainous and rugged way, and arrived near midnight, and found him on the point of sending two Indians to seek for me; his anxiety however lest any accident should have befallen me was changed into hearty laughter when he heard of the manner in which I had been spending my time." Mr. McLoughlin gave the Indians to understand that Douglas was the "Grass Man" with power over flowers and shrubs. Returning down the river alone with his Indian guide in August, he (Douglas) found six or seven

hundred Indians camped at the Falls (Celilo) fishing, and had an experience. He hung his jacket up to dry and discovered that his tobacco box had been stolen. "As soon as I discovered my loss, I perched myself on a rock and in their own tongue gave the Indians a furious reprimand, applying to them all the epithets of abuse which I had often heard them bestow on one another; and reminding them that though they saw me only a blanket man, I was more than that, I was the "Grass Man," and therefore not at all afraid of them. I could not recover my box but slept unmolested after all the bustle." How was it safe for a lone botanist to wander up and down the Columbia, Spokane and Walla Walla rivers in 1826? Because the Indians already knew that Dr. McLoughlin, the Great White Chief or the White Eagle Chief, as they called him, would punish those who should do him harm as certainly as he would reward any who did a service. Under his wise authority the control of the Indians, morally rather than physically, by the traders and trappers was so perfect that we can only wonder at it.

In August, 1828, Jedediah S. Smith unexpectedly became a guest at Fort Vancouver. Jedediah Smith was an American Fur Trapper and Trader (a partner of Jackson and Sublette, whose field of operations was the headwaters of the Missouri and Snake and Green rivers) and a very interesting character. He was brave and resourceful and a very loyal American; and was also an ardent Methodist, and quite contrary to general practice among the Mountain Men, is said to have engaged in daily prayer and invoked the divine favor at his meals, although in this habit quite alone. In the summer of 1828, in the mountains of Southern Oregon, his party of eighteen men was attacked by Indians and almost wiped out of existence; but four of them escaped northward and finally reached Vancouver. As a competitive trader, he might have been received without ceremony and sent on his way with only sufficient aid to enable him to reach his partners again; and this without criticism. But Dr. McLoughlin welcomed him cordially and provided for the wants of himself and his companions, and kept him as a guest for seven months. In March, 1828, Smith journeyed with the regular Hudson's Bay Co. Express as far as the Spokane country and then proceeded East through the Flathead country to join his associates, and in 1830 joined in a letter to the Secretary of War which was afterward printed as Senate Doc. No. 39, 21st Congress (1831), from the latter part of which, the following is quoted:

"One of the undersigned, to-wit: Jedediah S. Smith, in his excursions west of the Mountains arrived at the post of the Hudson's Bay Co., called Ft. Vancouver, near the mouth of the Multnomah River. He arrived there in August, 1828, and left the 12th of March, 1829, and made observations which he deems it material to communicate to the Government:....."The crop of 1828 was 700 bu. of wheat. The grain full and plump and making good flour; fourteen acres of corn, the same number of acres of peas, 8 acres of oats, 4 or 5 acres of barley and fine garden, some small apple trees, and grape vines. The ensuing spring 80 bu. of seed wheat were sown and they had about 200 head of cattle, 52 horses and breeding mares, 300 head of hogs, 14 goats, the usual domestic fowls. They have mechanics, viz: coopers, blacksmiths, gunsmiths, carpenters, tinner and baker, a good saw mill on the bank of the river 5 miles above, a grist mill worked by hand, but intended to work by water".....Their (i. e. the Hudson's Bay Co's.) influence over the Indians is now decisive. Of this the Americans have constant and striking proofs, in the preference which they give to the British in every particular.

"In saying this, it is an act of justice to say also, that the treatment received by Mr. Smith at Fort Vancouver was kind and hospitable, that personally he owes thanks to Gov. Simpson (McLoughlin) and the gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Co. for the hospitable entertainment he received from them, and for the efficient and successful aid which they gave him in recovering from the Umpquah Indians a quantity of fur and many horses of which these Indians had robbed him in 1828. As to the injury which must happen to the United States from the British getting control of all the Indians beyond the Mountains, building and repairing ships in the tidewaters of the Columbia and having a station there for Privateers and vessels of war, is too obvious to need a recapitulation.

"The object of this communication being to state facts to the Government, and to show the facility of crossing the Continent to the Great Falls of the Columbia with wagons, the ease of supporting any number of men by driving cattle to supply them where there was no buffalo, and also to show the true nature of the British establishments on the Columbia and the unequal operation of the convention of 1818."

This visit of Jedediah Smith is mentioned somewhat in detail because it is quite evident to the writer that from him Dr. McLoughlin obtained some opinions as to the future settlement

of the Columbia River country by the Americans and from that time anticipated such settlement and began to prepare for it; for this was the year that the Doctor made the first improvement on the land claim at the Falls of the Willamette and initiated rights there.

It would have been very natural that these two individuals should discuss together the future of the country, especially as the Convention of 1818 had just been renewed between England and the United States. This letter also shows that as early as 1831, the Departments at Washington had reliable information as to a wagon route to the Falls of the Columbia.

In 1828 the new Fort Vancouver (Stockade and Buildings) was built about a quarter of a mile west of the first fort and 200 yards from the bank of the river. And during 1828, while Mr. Smith was there, Gov. Simpson of the Hudson's Bay Co. visited the Fort upon a tour of inspection.

In the years 1832 to 1836 inclusive, Nathaniel J. Wyeth from Boston, a very energetic and persistent Yankee and with the instincts and habits of a gentleman, although neither a Methodist or a total abstainer (at least not while in the Oregon country), established and attempted to carry on business enterprises in the Columbia river basin in competition with the Hudson's Bay Co., but found himself unable to do so against the stronger rivals and in the end sold out to them upon terms agreeable to both. Of the kind and generous treatment by Dr. McLoughlin his journal speaks in many places as does also the following letter written in 1850 (see Pg. 258, "Dr. John McLoughlin" by Holman):

Cambridge, Nov. 28, 1850.

Hon Robert C. Winthrop:

Dear Sir: I have received a letter from Sam'l R. Thurston of which the following is a portion:

"I desire you to give me as correct a description as you can at this late period, of the manner in which you and your party, and your enterprise in Oregon, were treated by the Hudson's Bay Co. west of the Rocky Mountains, and particularly by Dr. John McLoughlin, then its Chief Factor. This Dr. McLoughlin has since you left the country, rendered his name odious among the people of Oregon, by his endeavors to prevent the settlement of the country and cripple its growth. Now that he wants a few favors of our Government, he pretends that he has been the long-tried friend of Americans and American enterprise west of the mountains."

"I have written Mr. Thurston, in reply to the above extract, that myself and parties were kindly received, and were treated well in all respects by John McLoughlin, Esq., and the officers

of the Hudson's Bay Co., but from the tenor of his letter, I have no confidence that my testimony will be presented before any committee to whom may be referred any subjects touching the interests of said John McLoughlin, Esq.

"The very honorable treatment received by me from Mr. McLoughlin during the years inclusive from 1832 to 1836, during which time there were no other Americans on the Lower Columbia, except myself and parties, calls on me to state the facts.

"The purpose of this letter is to ask the favor of you to inform me what matter is pending, in which Mr. McLoughlin's interests are involved, and before whom, and if you will present a memorial from me on the matters stated in Mr. Thurston's letter as above.

"Respectfully and truly your obedient servant,

"Nath. J. Wyeth."

This was written when Samuel R. Thurston, Oregon Delegate to Congress and after whom Thurston County, Washington, was named, was endeavoring to discredit Dr. McLoughlin's record and take away his land claim. Robert C. Winthrop was then Speaker of the National House of Representatives. Thus did Dr. McLoughlin deal with his competitors in the fur trade.

In 1834, the missionaries began to arrive on the Columbia. The Hudson's Bay Co. was not in the business of saving souls or civilizing Indians, but the cordial reception given to the American missionaries, who nearly all in turn became guests at Vancouver, is clearly shown by their journals and letters.

The first we will mention is Rev. Samuel Parker, the Presbyterian, who came in the early fall of 1835. He was escorted all the way from the rendezvous on Green River to Fort Walla Walla by a band of Nez Percés. His route was by the mountain trails of the Salmon River and Clearwater countries and through where Lewiston stands now; and some have designated him as the plug hat missionary, because the Indians said he wore a high hat all the way through. He was a sincere and devout man and continually anxious about the salvation of the people he met, whether Indians or whites. But his sincerity seems to have made a good impression, for Mrs. Whitman wrote that he had been a favorite at Fort Vancouver and had taught the children there some religious hymns. He explored the interior country and with the aid of Dr. McLoughlin selected the sites for the Spalding and Whitman missions. Of his arrival at Fort Vancouver he himself wrote:

"Here, by the kind invitation of Dr. McLoughlin, and welcomed by the other gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Co., I took

up my residence for the winter.....I am agreeably situated in this place. Rooms in a new house are assigned to me, well furnished, and all the attendance which I can wish, with access to as many valuable books as I have time to read; and opportunities to ride out for exercise, and to see the adjoining country; and in addition to all these, the society of gentlemen, enlightened, polished and sociable.....In the year 1835, at this post, there were 450 head cattle, 100 horses, 200 sheep, 40 goats, and 300 hogs. They had raised the same year 5,000 bu. of wheat, of the best quality I ever saw; 1,300 bushels of potatoes, 100 bu. of barley, 1,000 bu. of oats, 2,000 of peas, and a large quantity of garden vegetables."

And when about to leave Vancouver for the Sandwich Islands on the regular Hudson's Bay Co's. vessel, he wrote as follows:

"Monday, April 11th (1836). Having made arrangements to leave this place on the 14th, I called upon the chief clerk for my bill. He said the company had made no bill against me, but felt a pleasure in gratuitously conferring all they had done for the benefit of the object in which I was engaged.....In addition to the civilities I had received as a guest, I had drawn upon their store for clothing, for goods to pay my Indians, whom I had employed to convey me in canoes on various journeyings hundreds of miles; to pay my guides and interpreters; and have drawn upon their provisions store for the support of these men while in my employ."

In 1836, Sept. 12th, at evening, the Whitman-Spalding party arrived at Vancouver, in company with McLeod & McKay—returning from their annual rendezvous at Green River; Mr. Parker had given notice of their coming that year and Dr. McLoughlin had given instructions to his traders to escort them through, which they did with some inconvenience to themselves of course, but with unusual civility. They remained at the post for more than a month before returning to their mission locations in the interior. Of the many interesting items in the letters of Mrs. Whitman to her mother and others, we can quote only a few:

"We are now at Vancouver, the New York of the Pacific Ocean. Our first sight as we approach the fort, was two ships lying in the harbor, one of which, the *Neriade*, Capt. Royal, had just arrived from London; the other, the *Columbia*, Capt. Dandy, came last May and has since been to the Sandwich Islands and returned." Describing the garden back of the fort, she says: "What a delightful place is this.....Here we find fruit of every

description, apples, peaches, grapes, pears, plums and figs in abundance; also cucumbers, melons, beans, peas, beets, cabbage, tomatoes and every kind of vegetable too numerous to mention."

She speaks of the unexpected pleasure of the society of two English ladies then resident there. She visited the barns and the stock, and the dairy, and the store room, where were "the cargo of the two ships, all in unbroken bales; chiefly Indian goods; every article for comfort and durability that we need." Of the mill, she says it was run by horse power and had a wire bolt and that "the company has one at Colville that goes by water, five days ride from Walla Walla from whence we expect to obtain our flour, potatoes and pork. They have three hundred hogs." In regard to supplies for their mission, she says: "Dr. McLoughlin promises to loan us enough to make a beginning and all the return he asks is that we supply other settlers in the same way. He appears desirous to afford us every facility for living, in his power. No person could have received a more hearty welcome, or be treated with greater kindness than we have been since our arrival."

The Methodist missionaries had begun to arrive in 1834, Rev. Jason Lee and his nephew, Daniel Lee, being the first, and began the extensive operations in the Willamette Valley. Of the many acts of kindness to them we will not make mention, but will record the arrival of the "great reinforcement" to that mission that came in 1840 on the ship *Lausanne* from New York, as a result of the visit of Jason Lee to the States in 1838-9. We quote from what Capt. Spaulding of that vessel wrote in his log book, beginning after their arrival at Astoria: "The next morning after getting under way, I was hailed by a canoe, which I found had been dispatched by Dr. McLoughlin, who, hearing of my arrival, immediately sent on board the best pilot at the fort, to assist me, sending also a large tub of fresh butter, and a bag of fresh bread.....Upon my arrival abreast Fort Vancouver about six o'clock in the evening, I found the Doctor on the bank, ready to receive us. He immediately came on board and invited all the ship's company, 54 in number, to take tea with him at the fort.....The next day all the ship's company were provided with comfortable quarters and an abundant table at the fort; and this hospitality was continued until they were all sent to their several destinations. One of the peculiar traits of the Doctor's character is that he never tires in his benevolent acts. This I was told by those who have been intimate with him for years; and as far as my experience goes, I can truly confirm all

that was told me ; for, while at Vancouver, I received from him every civility, and his kind offices followed me all the way down the river, and even out over the bar."

No one can read the records of these missions of the different sects and come to any other conclusion than that but for the friendliness of the officers of the Hudson's Bay Co., they could not have been begun or maintained ; but under another personality the conditions would have been far different even then, for Dr. McLoughlin was broad minded, and out of his town site at Oregon City he gave lots free of charge to Methodists, Baptists, Presbyterians and Congregationalists, as well as Catholics for religious use ; and himself headed a voluntary subscription of money to assist Jason Lee, in 1836, in the work on the Willamette.

Dr. McLoughlin, when a child was baptized in the Catholic church, but it was not until Christmas morning of 1842 that he partook of the holy communion and entered into the membership of that church. Up to about 1839 or '40, he affiliated more especially with the Church of England (Episcopalian). A great many of the traders and clerks were French Canadians, and French was the common language at Vancouver ; but a few used English regularly. So the services were read on Sundays and feast days by Dr. McLoughlin in French. But the great majority of the artisans, servants and laborers were Catholics, and a regular meeting place and time was provided for them also. The first Catholic clergymen arrived from Montreal in 1838, Rev. F. N. Blanchet and Rev. A. Demers, of the Oblate Fathers. In 1836 there had arrived from England by sea, a Church of England clergyman to act as chaplain, Rev. Herbert Beaver, accompanied by his wife. It is probable that Dr. McLoughlin at once asked for a resident priest of the Catholic faith ; at any rate these came and were paid a regular salary by the Hudson's Bay Co. for some years. Rev. Herbert Beaver did not remain long ; he does not seem to have acclimated well. And some of those who had come as clergymen and laymen of the Presbyterian and Methodist missions developed a fondness for material things in preference to the spiritual, and began to trouble Dr. McLoughlin for employment and about the land claim at Oregon City. These circumstances and a book entitled "The End of Controversy" are said to have influenced him toward the religion of his own parents, although his fellow officers, Jas. Douglas, Dr. Tolmie, and others, remained Protestants.

We next come to the reception of the American Immigrants

on the Columbia. The high mark in the fur business of the Hudson's Bay Co. west of the Rocky Mts. seems to have been reached in 1830 or '32; after that the extra dividends of the Company began to fall off, although always large enough to keep the Company out of bankruptcy. So in the early thirties, if not sooner, Dr. McLoughlin was compelled to consider the future of the Company during the gradual diminution of its most profitable line of trade. The situation was complicated by the fact that the boundary question was receiving no active attention, and the American people had just as much right in the country as the British, and were likely to have. And as early as 1825 Dr. McLoughlin had been informed by the officers of the Company in London "that on no event could the British Government claim extend south of the Columbia river." It has been the popular belief that the policy of the Hudson's Bay Co. was to keep the Oregon country for its own use and to discourage the settlement of it by the Americans and others. This, however, is not in accord with recent research and opinion. It is safe and proper to say that the Hudson's Bay Co. did not discourage settlement, but at a very early date expected it and prepared to accept it as inevitable and to profit by it in lines of trade. To say otherwise is to discredit the loyalty of Dr. McLoughlin and his associates to their Company and their country; and documents recently copied in the British archives at London seem to prove this. This policy was probably recommended to the Company by Dr. McLoughlin and accepted by them. But had there been another man than he at the head of the affairs on the Columbia, a man lacking his breadth of view and his wonderful humanity, the story of the administration of that policy would be much less pleasant and delightful to relate.

Dr. McLoughlin has been often referred to as the autocrat of the Oregon country. We more often think of an autocrat as of despotic or aristocratic mien; but his was a truly catholic autocracy and he loved to be on common ground with the common people. Nothing reveals this better than his treatment of the American immigrants.

These immigrants began to come in force in 1842, and in 1843, '44 and '45 and later years came in large numbers. The immigration of 1843 contained nearly one thousand people, men, women and children, and that of 1845 some 2,500 people. These immigrants arrived at The Dalles in the Fall after a five or six months' journey across the plains in wagons, in conditions of exhaustion and uncertainty, and in many instances of distress

and need. Of the migration of 1843 this was particularly true. From Ft. Boise on Snake river, those pioneers practically found and made their own wagon route across the Blue Mountain range, with only an Indian to guide them; and beyond the Whitman Mission no one could tell them a way, for Dr. Whitman said he had traveled down the river only by boat. So they struggled along alone. But for the timely and unstinted aid given to these immigrants, there would have been such loss of life from exposure and destitution as would have caused fighting on the Columbia and a declaration of war between United States and England as soon as the news of such a condition reached the States. Of how they were sent for with boats and many of them sheltered and fed at Fort Vancouver, and supplied with food and clothing and seed and grain and stock, the story has been often told. But Mr. Joseph Watt, of the migration of 1844, has reduced to a very familiar narrative his own experiences, as follows:

Trans. Oregon Pioneer Association, 1886, Pg. 24-27.

"On the 13th of November, 1844, a company of immigrants landed at Fort Vancouver, brought there on a batteau commanded by Joseph Hess, an immigrant of 1843. The boat belonged to the Hudson's Bay Co. Mr. Hess was entrusted with the boat for the purpose of bringing immigrants down the river. We had eaten the last of our provisions at our last camp, and were told by Hess that we could get plenty at the Fort, with or without money: that the old Doctor never turned people away hungry. This made us feel quite comfortable, for there was not a dollar among us. As near as I can remember the company consisted of sixteen men, five women and four children. As soon as we landed at the Fort the men all started to find Dr. McLoughlin, the women and children walking about the shore for exercise. We soon found the Doctor in a small room he called his office. He was a tall, broad shouldered, portly and dignified old gentleman; his hair long and white as snow; face cleanly shaven, ruddy and full, and of rather a nervous temperament. He met us pleasantly, made us welcome, enquired as to our journey down the river, and particularly of those we left behind. We were the first to arrive, with the exception of a few packers. He told us that he had furnished the boats free of charge to certain parties to bring immigrants down the river, limiting their charges to keep them from taking advantage of necessity. He spoke of our being so late, and feared there would be considerable suffering before they could all be taken down the river, but should do all in his power until they reached their destination.

"We then made known to him our wants; we were all out of provisions. There was a small table in one corner of the room, at which he took a seat, and directed us to stand in line,—(there

being so many of us the line reached nearly around the room)—and then told us the year before and previous years he had furnished the people with all the provisions and clothing they wanted, but lately had established a trading house at Oregon City where we could get supplies; but for immediate necessity he would supply provisions at the fort. Several of our party broke in, saying, 'Doctor, I have no money to pay you, and I don't know when or how I can pay you.'

"'Tut, tut, never mind that; you cannot suffer,' said the Doctor. He then commenced at the head man, saying, 'Your name, if you please; how many in the family and what do you desire?'

"Upon receiving an answer, the Doctor wrote an order, directing him where to go to have it filled, then called up the next man, and so on until all were supplied. He told us the account of each man would be sent to Oregon City, and when we took a claim and raised wheat, we could settle the account by delivering wheat at that place. Some few who came after us got clothing. Such was the case with every boat load and all those who came by land down the trail. If he had said 'We have these supplies to sell for cash down,' I think we would have suffered. After we had our orders filled, we went on board the boat which was to take us to Linnton. . . . We found the Doctor in a towering rage; he was giving it to Hess right and left. It appeared that the Doctor had come to the river to see the boat. He found it, as he supposed, full of wagons, and as he had given strict orders that only bedding, clothing, camp equipment, etc., should be brought with the immigrants, and that none should be left. He believed that Hess was making an extra fee by bringing wagons. We commenced getting into the boat and climbing on top of the wagons. When all were in there was not an inch of spare room left. The Doctor stood looking on, until we were out in the river; he evidently expected to see the boat sink. Soon we heard him call out: 'Mr. Hess, all right, sir.'"

There were more distinguished visitors at Vancouver of whom we cannot speak; Lieut. Slacum in 1837, the Wilkes Exploring Squadron in 1841, and John C. Fremont in 1843; neither can we tell of the individual trappers and traders from the many other forts that were maintained in remote parts of Old Oregon, or of the large commerce carried on from Vancouver under the direction of Dr. McLoughlin, when the only means of communication were the Indian runner, the Canadian Courier du Bois and the sailing vessel; nor of the visits of Sir George Simpson, the colonial governor of the Hudson's Bay Co., whose veracity at certain times seems to have been about equal to that of some oily politician of the present day, and whose personal jealousy of Dr. McLoughlin seems to lie at the bottom of the later troubles over the land claim. Those troubles are not yet capable of satisfactory explanation.

In the fall of 1842 Lord Aberdeen, of the British Foreign Office, seems to have wakened up to the fact that the Oregon country was slipping from England's grasp; Daniel Webster had not been easy game in the negotiation with Lord Ashburton, and was no more easy during the rest of his term in the cabinet of President Tyler. The policy of quietly assisting in the colonization that was suggested to President Jackson and begun under Van Buren's administration, was continued by President Tyler and Secretary Webster. It was too late when the British ministry wakened to this situation and made its final bluff to retain all the country lying north and west of the Columbia. A squadron was sent to the Pacific and an armed vessel was kept in Puget Sound and another in the Columbia; and fortifications were planned at four or five different points on the Columbia, and one even at the Falls of the Willamette. British officers appeared at Vancouver; Capt. Park and Lieut. Peel from off the British ship *America*, and Lieuts. Warre and Vavasour of the engineering corps, direct from London by way of Montreal, in August, 1845. The former of these two drew sketches of various localities, really for use in case of war, and these have come down to us in a folio of prints to be found in some few libraries and private collections. These officers, the last two especially, sent in colored reports as to the loyalty of Dr. McLoughlin and he was criticized by jingoes who did not understand his true motives or his high character, and as a result he voluntarily (?) tendered his resignation from the service of the Hudson Bay Co. and left Vancouver in the fall of the very year the boundary was finally fixed as the Forty-ninth degree, north latitude. He passed the remainder of his days at Oregon City, where he had established property rights and built a flouring mill, receiving, of course, the regular salary paid to a retired officer of the Company. As soon as it became possible to do so, he declared his intentions and became an American citizen. He passed from this life on September 3rd, 1857, at the age of seventy-three years, and the graves of himself and wife, next to the Catholic Church at Oregon City, is the most revered spot in that community, of which he was the founder.

Of the eleven years of Dr. McLoughlin's residence at Oregon City, our limitations permit of only passing mention. There was a touch of real martyrdom to these last years of his life. While loved and respected by the great majority of the older settlers, a larger number had arrived who did not personally know him; and by some whom he had befriended his kindness was forgot-

ten, and the finger of scorn and tongue of vilification was even turned upon him. This was primarily because of his land claim. The first opposition to his possession of this claim may have been honest, under the assumption that he held it really for the Hudson's Bay Co. and not for himself. There may have been ground for this suspicion; it may have been even so, in the very broad sense that the Hudson's Bay Co. were to have first use of the water power for milling. But with his retirement from the Company and the settlement of the boundary question this suspicion should have been laid aside. Instead it was intensified by religious bigotry and selfishness. Of his unhappy state of mind at the end, Mr. L. F. Grover, twice Governor of Oregon and once its Senator, has given us this glimpse. Mr. Grover was summoned to the house of Mr. McLoughlin:

"I found him extremely ill. . . . He said he was dying by inches. He said: 'I shall live but a little while longer; and this is the reason I sent for you. I am an old man and just dying, and you are a young man and will live many years in this country, and will have something to do with affairs here. As for me, I had better been shot'—and he brought it out harshly—'I might better have been shot forty years ago!' After a silence, for I did not say anything, he concluded: 'Than to have lived here and tried to build up a family and an estate in this government. I became a citizen of the United States in good faith. I planted all I had here, and the government has confiscated my property. Now what I want to ask of you is that you will give your influence after I am dead to have this property go to my children. I have earned it as other settlers have earned theirs, and it ought to be mine and my heirs.' I told him I would favor his request, and did." (Holman, Dr. J. McL., page 58.)

Thus died Dr. John McLoughlin, the Savior of Oregon Pioneers, the true Father of Oregon and Washington. "The days of our years are three score years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow."

T. C. ELLIOTT.